

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SAB-01 /069 W

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R 251447Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6230

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMACUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 9095

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO EG

SUBJECT: JORDAN MEDIA COMMENTARY ON KING HUSSEINS CRITIQUE

ONF SINAI ACCORD IN US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

1. RADIO AND PRESS EDITORIALS REPORT RATHER THAN COMMENT ON KING'S REMAKRS. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS HUSSEINS RECOGNITION OF EGYPTIS AND SADATS PAST CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARAB AND PALESTINIANS CAUSE AND KING'S CONVICTION EGYPT INTENDS CONTINUE SEEK SETTLEMENT OF REMAINING ARAB ISREALI PROBLEMS BUT EMPHASIZED KING'S BELIEF SINAI ACCORD SHOULD NOT HAVE FORESWORN RESORT TO FORCE WHEN EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN AND WEST BANK LANDS STILL OCCUPIED. MEDIA ALSO FOCUSES ON KING'S STATEMENT THAT A STEP BY STEP IS ACCEPTABLE APPROACH TO SETTLEMENT BUT THAT SINAI II LEFT TOO AMBIGIOUS WHAT SUBSEQUENT STEPS WOULD BE. THIRDLY, MEDIA EMPHASIZED KINGS CRITICISM OF MASSIVE ARMS FOR ISREAL ASSOCIATED WITH SINAI ACCORD AND WHICH IN KINGS VIEW SHIFTS MILITARY BALANCE SIGNIFICANTLY IN ISRAELIS FAVOR. FINALLY PROMINENT MENTION MADE
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OF KINGS CHARACTERIZATION OF SYRIAN ATTITUDE ON

SINAI ACCORD AS ONE OF INTEREST IN "REAL" PROGRESS
IN DIRECTION OF UN RESOLUTIONS.

2. COMMENT: JORDAN'S FIRST PUBLIC CRITICISM OF
SINAI ACCORD MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN MORE
DRAMATIC WAY. MEDIA'S RESTRAINED TREATMENT SEEMS
IN RESPONSE TO KING'S OWN INTENT IN ORIGINAL INTER-
VIEW WHICH APPARENTLY WAS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF
HIS SOMEWHAT FORWARD MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN POLICY
WITHOUT GREATLY DAMAGING JORDAN'S PROSPECTS FOR
MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN09095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-0838
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751113/aaaaalda.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN MEDIA COMMENTARY ON KING HUSSEINS CRITIQUE ON SINAI ACCORD IN US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG, XF, (HUSSEIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006